

# AN380 01: **Chinese Society and Popular Religion**

## **A Century of Change**

Spring Term, 2002: Tuesday, Thursday 9:35 – 10:50 am, JH 337

Instructor: Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.  
Office: Anthropology Program, JH 249A  
Office Hours: M, W, R, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, and by appointment  
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This seminar examines Chinese society from the “bottom up,” with an emphasis on the structure of everyday life. The first part deals with pre-revolutionary (non-communist) Chinese society. Topics include marriage and adoption strategies, concubinage, inheritance patterns, gender roles, lineage organization, and life crisis rituals. The second part focuses on post-revolutionary society and Maoist attempts to construct a new culture. Topics include land reform and collectivization, marriage, women’s liberation, changing family organization, anti-superstition campaigns, population control, and the impact of post-Mao reforms. The third part will be topical: looking at two social institutions in contemporary China (popular religion and lineages) that have been transformed through historical experiences.

Our emphasis will be on understanding how Chinese traditions and culture have shaped Chinese society today. What is uniquely Chinese in Chinese culture? How has popular religion shaped understandings of modernity in Chinese society? How do social units like the family or practices such as life-cycle rituals give structure to Chinese society? What will China be like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

### **Course Readings**

Wolf, Margery 1972. *Women and the Family in Rural Taiwan*. Stanford University Press. ISBN: 0-8047-8049-5

Huang, Shu-min 1989. *The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village Through the Eyes of a Communist Party Leader*. Westview Press. ISBN 0-8133-0938-7.

Jing, Jun 1998. *Temple of Memories*. Stanford University Press. ISBN: 0-8047-2757-0

Dean, Kenneth 1995. *Taoist Ritual and Popular Cults of Southeast China*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0-6910-4473-2

In addition to the above books, various articles will be required. These articles are all available on Blackboard.

### **Course Requirements**

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each seminar meeting; this means having **thoroughly read the material** and **being prepared to discuss** particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I will not lecture on the readings, but will discuss the implications and difficult points in the material.

#### **Response papers: 15%**

Each student will have to write five (5) response papers, one page and double-spaced. They are individually ungraded and require only timely submission for full credit. See the handout for more information.

#### **Short Essays or Research Paper: 50%**

Students will have a choice of writing two (2) short essays (between 5-7 pages) or one (1) longer essay (12-15 pages) that are **worth 50%** of the final grade. The shorter essays will be due on **21 February** and **11 April 2002** in class. The long essay is due in class on **18 April 2002**. Topics for the long essay will be selected by each student, but must be discussed with the instructor prior to **1 March 2001**.

#### **Student Presentations: 15%**

Students will present their research findings or topics for **one** of the short essays in class to the seminar.

#### **Class Participation: 20%**

Active participation requires that each student come to class prepared, having read the assigned material before class. Student involvement in seminar discussion is essential for the success of the class. In this class, I will lead discussion, and not lecture on the class material during the entire class period. Remember, there is no such thing as a dumb question or comment. A good strategy is to mark a part of the reading that you feel is important, unclear, or thought-provoking, and share the passage with the seminar.

It is the policy and practice of Butler University to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Written notification from Student Disability Services is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for this course, please discuss it with me and allow two weeks notice. Otherwise, it is not guaranteed that the accommodation can be received on a timely basis. If you have questions about Student Disability Services, you may wish to contact Michele Atterson, JH 136, ext. 9308.

**Schedule of Class Meetings (subject to change)**

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15 January Tuesday	<b>Seminar Introduction</b>
17 January Thursday	<b>Overview of Chinese History</b> <b>Reading:</b> Smith, Richard J. 1994. <i>Ming and Qing Society: China and the West</i> . Cheek, Timothy 1994. <i>Revolution, Evolution, and Continuity</i> .
22 January Tuesday	<b>Chinese Lineages and Families</b> <b>Reading:</b> Cohen, Myron 1970. <i>Developmental Process in the Chinese Domestic Group</i> . Potter, Jack M. 1970. <i>Land and Lineage in Traditional China</i> . Wolf, Margery, p. 1-31
24 January Thursday	<b>Women in Chinese Lineages and Families</b> <b>Reading:</b> McCreery, John L. 1976. <i>Women's Property Rights and Dowry in China and South Asia</i> . Watson, Rubie S. 1986. <i>The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society</i> . Wolf, Margery, p. 32-52 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
29 January Tuesday	<b>Footbinding and Uterine Families</b> <b>Reading:</b> Gamble, Sidney D 1943. <i>The Disappearance of Foot-binding in Tingsien</i> . Greenhalgh, Susan 1977. <i>Bound Feet, Hobbled Lives: Women in Old China</i> . <i>Frontiers</i> . 2(1):7-21 Wolf, Margery, p. 53-99.
31 January Thursday	<b>Chinese Marriage Rites and Gender Roles</b> <b>Reading:</b> Watson, Rubie S. 1981. <i>Class Differences and Affinal Relations in South China</i> . Freedman, Maurice 1970. <i>Ritual Aspects of Kinship and Marriage</i> .
5 February Tuesday	<b>Reading:</b> Wolf, Margery, p. 100-157
7 February Thursday	<b>Other forms of Chinese Marriage</b> <b>Reading:</b> Wolf, Margery p. 171-214 Wolf, Arthur P. 1966. <i>Childhood Association, Sexual Attraction, and the Incest Taboo: A Chinese Case</i> . Ahern, Emily M. 1975. <i>The Power and Pollution of Chinese Women</i> . Topley, Marjorie. <i>Marriage Resistance in Rural Kwangtung</i> . <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
12 February Tuesday	<b>Chinese Funerals</b> <b>Reading:</b> Watson, James L. 1982. <i>Of Flesh and Bones: The Management of Death Pollution in Cantonese Society</i> . Johnson, Elizabeth L. 1988. <i>Grieving for the Dead, Grieving for the Living: Funeral Laments of Hakka Women</i> . Wolf, Arthur P. 1970. <i>Chinese Kinship and Mourning Dress</i> .

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14 February Thursday	<b>Chinese Society under Socialism</b> <b>Reading:</b> Huang Shu-min, p. 1-54
19 February Tuesday	<b>Reading:</b> Huang Shu-min, p. 55-104
21 February Thursday	<b>Reading:</b> Huang Shu-min, p. 105-150 <b>Assignment:</b> First Short Essay Due
26 February Tuesday	<b>Reading:</b> Huang Shu-min, p. 151-225
28 February Thursday	<b>Marriage in the Maoist Period</b> <b>Reading:</b> Blake, C. Fred. 1979. Love Songs and the Great Leap: The Role of a Youth Culture in the Revolutionary Phase of China's Economic Development. Croll, Elizabeth. 1984. Marriage Choice and Status Groups in Contemporary China. <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
5 March Tuesday	<b>Collectivizing the Family</b> <b>Reading:</b> Whyte, Martin K. 1979. Revolutionary Social Change and Patrilocal Residence in China. Ocko, Jonathan K. 1991. Women, Property, and the Law in the People's Republic of China. Witke, Roxane. 1967. Mao Tse-tung, Women and Suicide in the May Fourth Era. Robinson, Jean C. 1985. Of Women and Washing Machines: Employment, Housework, and the Reproduction of Motherhood in Socialist China. <b>Assignment:</b> Topic for Research Paper due
7 March Thursday	<b>The One Child-Policy</b> Greenhalgh, Susan. 1993. The Peasantization of the One-Child Policy in Shaanxi. Gates, Hill. 1993. Cultural Support for Birth Limitation among Urban Capital-owning Women
11 – 15 March	<b>Spring Break:</b> No Classes Have a safe and rewarding vacation
19 March Tuesday	<b>Marriage in Post-Socialist China</b> <b>Reading:</b> Siu, Helen. Reconstituting Dowry and Brideprice in South China Whyte, Martin. Wedding Behavior and Family Strategies in Chengdu Lozada, E. Getting to the Church on Time
21 March Thursday	<b>Revival of Lineages: The Kong Lineage</b> <b>Reading:</b> Jing, p. 1-44 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
26 March Tuesday	<b>Reading:</b> Jing, p. 45 – 114
28 March Thursday	<b>Reading:</b> Jing, p. 115-176

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2 April Tuesday	<b>Revival of Religion: Daoism in Fujian Case Study</b> <b>Reading:</b> Dean, p. 1-58 <b>Assignment:</b> Response Paper Due
4 April Thursday	No Class: Prof. Lozada will be attending the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Washington, DC
9 April Tuesday	<b>Reading:</b> Dean, p. 61-129
11 April Thursday	<b>Reading:</b> Dean, p. 131-186 Lozada article on religion and state <b>Assignment:</b> Second Short Essay Due
16 April Tuesday	<b>The Future of Chinese Culture?</b> Whyte, Martin K. 1988. Death in the People's Republic of China. Watson, James L. 1993. Rites or Beliefs?: The Construction of a Unified Culture in Late Imperial China. Yan Yunxiang. 1992. The Impact of Rural Reform on Economic and Social Stratification in a Chinese Village. Ikels, Charlotte. 1990. The Resolution of Intergenerational Conflict.
18 April Thursday	Student Presentations of Research Projects <b>Assignment:</b> Research Paper Due
23 April Tuesday	Student Presentations of Research Projects
25 April Thursday	Student Presentations of Research Projects

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